

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 13-17 and 21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 8-10, 12 and 18-20 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and claim 21 has been added to correspond to original claim 5 which also depended from original claim 2.

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11 and 13-17. Applicants also assert that claim 21 is allowable as claim 21 corresponds to original claim 5 which was also indicated as allowable in a previous Office Action.

The rejection of claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 8-38834 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of the claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-4, 6, 7, 11, 13-17 and 21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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